

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1-28 without prejudice or disclaimer, and substitute new Claims 29-56 therefor as follows:

Claim 1-28 (Cancelled).

29. (New) A process for manufacturing an elastomeric sleeve of a joint for electrical cables, said sleeve comprising:

an electric field-control element;

an electrical insulating element surrounding said electric field-control element;

and

at least two stress control screens positioned at the axial ends of said electrical insulating element,

said process comprising the steps of:

providing said electric field-control element and said stress control screens on a supporting element;

introducing said supporting element into a mould provided for moulding said electrical insulating element made of an electrical insulating material;

filling with said electrical insulating material the space radially external to said electric field-control element and the space between said electric field-control element and said stress control screens, the step of filling being carried out during the step of introducing; and

curing said electrical insulating material to obtain said electrical insulating element of said elastomeric sleeve.

30. (New) The process according to Claim 29, wherein the step of introducing is carried out by coaxially moving said supporting element into said mould.

31. (New) The process according to Claim 29, wherein the step of introducing is carried out by moving said supporting element in a substantially vertical direction.

32. (New) The process according to Claim 29, wherein the step of filling comprises the step of extruding said electrical insulating material.

33. (New) The process according to Claim 29, wherein said insulating material is filled into said mould according to a first direction and said supporting element is introduced into said mould according to a second direction, said second direction being substantially perpendicular to said first direction.

34. (New) The process according to Claim 33, wherein said second direction is a substantially vertical direction.

35. (New) The process according to Claim 29, wherein a direction of filling said insulating material into said mould corresponds to a direction of introduction of said supporting element into said mould.

36. (New) The process according to Claim 35, wherein a verse of filling of said insulating material into said mould corresponds to a verse of introduction of said supporting element into said mould.

37. (New) The process according to Claim 35, wherein a verse of filling of said insulating material into said mould is opposite to a verse of introduction of said supporting element into said mould.

38. (New) The process according to Claim 29, wherein the step of filling comprises the step of distributing said insulating material over the transverse cross section of said mould.

39. (New) The process according to Claim 29, further comprising the step of correlating the step of filling with the volume of the space to be filled with said insulating material.

40. (New) The process according to Claim 39, wherein the step of correlating comprises the step of varying the advancing speed of said supporting element into said mould with respect to said volume.

41. (New) The process according to Claim 40, wherein the step of correlating comprises the step of maintaining substantially constant the flow rate of said insulating material being fed into said mould.

42. (New) The process according to Claim 39, wherein the step of correlating comprises the step of varying the flow rate of said insulating material with respect to said volume.

43. (New) The process according to Claim 42, wherein the step of correlating comprises the step of maintaining substantially constant the advancing speed of said supporting element into said mould.

44. (New) The process according to Claim 29, wherein the step of curing comprises the step of providing a heat amount for crosslinking said insulating material.

45. (New) The process according to Claim 29, further comprising the step of cooling said insulating material after said step of curing.

46. (New) The process according to Claim 29, further comprising the step of removing from said mould said elastomeric sleeve supported on said supporting element.

47. (New) The process according to Claim 29, further comprising the step of releasing said elastomeric sleeve from said supporting element.

48. (New) An apparatus for manufacturing an elastomeric sleeve of a joint for electrical cables, said sleeve comprising:

an electric field-control element;
an electrical insulating element surrounding said electric field-control element;
and

at least two stress control screens positioned at the axial ends of said electrical insulating element,

said apparatus comprising:

a grasping and handling device for holding and moving a supporting element provided with said electric field-control element and said two stress control screens;

a housing for allocating a mould provided for moulding said electrical insulating element; and

a control unit for introducing said supporting element into said mould.

49. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 48, further comprising at least one upright member along which said grasping and handling device is caused to move.

50. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 49, further comprising at least one cross member for coupling said grasping and handling device to said upright member.

51. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 50, wherein said control unit comprises at least one motor unit for moving said cross member.

52. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 51, wherein said at least one motor unit moves said cross member in a vertical direction.

53. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein said control unit comprises at least one hydraulic circuit for moving said grasping and handling device.

54. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 53, wherein said at least one hydraulic circuit moves said grasping and handling device in a substantially horizontal direction.

55. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 48, further comprising a heating device for providing said mould with a predetermined heat amount.

56. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 48, further comprising a cooling device for cooling the cured insulated material.